

April 4, 1990

LB 1141
LR 239

are entitlement programs in...either in fact or because of necessity, in the area of Social Services, Corrections, Department of Institutions, a few others, all of which grow faster than the average growth of the state's receipts over a period of time, primarily in some of those because their heavy component is medical. Obviously, if we want to go out and help local governments more, that is also likely to grow faster, and over the next few years, we are going to be really trying to find ways to economize and be more efficient in state operations. But I suspect that is not what we are going to do. I don't expect we will amend the Constitution even to have that possibility to address that issue. Matter of fact, I have an amendment on LB 1141 should 239 be bracketed which offers another alternative as a constitutional amendment, one, incidentally, which is neither here nor there actually, but, incidentally, the Chair of the Board of Regents at the public hearing on 239 indicated was the right thing to do. It intrigues me a little bit that back in the lobby they are all working against the amendment that was filed in the Journal yesterday, although it is exactly...conceptually, it is identical to what the Chairman of the Board of Regents said ought to be done.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: But that is merely, and, in fact, it was a response to a question by Senator Baack at the hearing, but it just merely bolsters the fact that we aren't going to do anything. We are going to come next year and we are going to expand telecommunications, we are going to expand learning centers, we are going to expand graduate programs, first come, first serve, and they probably all ought to be done, and we will end up with a system we can't afford, the quality is going to go down. Nobody will be in charge, which will be fortunate because we can blame no one that way, or everyone, it doesn't make any difference. But if there is an issue that faces this state that is of paramount importance, when you look at the size of the budget and how important postsecondary education is, then that one word is coordination, and that is what we do not now have, and I suspect never will. Use your judgment on the bracket motion. I would not interpret the bracket motion if it is successful as being one of turning down the issue. I suspect in part it will be people who want to get to other issues, and I can understand that, but there is an opportunity this session to address an issue that everyone has known for years has not been